

Combined with improvements further north it will mean that the remainder of the route will become safer and more reliable, with bottlenecks tackled and junctions improved.

Longer term, we will continue to examine the case for full dualling to the Scottish border and will consider further investments in future road investment strategies.

For further information:

This is one of a series of six feasibility studies carried out across England during 2014.

The government has been working with local partners to identify solutions to some of the most notorious and longstanding road hotspots in the country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy#feasibility-studies>



A1 North of Newcastle Study

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Why we need to take action

The A1 North of Newcastle is an important strategic route between England and Scotland through Northumberland, connecting two of the UK's capital cities. The Government has recognised the importance of the route, particularly for freight. It also caters for local commuters and agricultural traffic. It is 59 miles long and while some of the route is dual carriageway, there are still 36 miles of single carriageway.

Over the last decade surrounding sections of the A1 have been improved. There have been significant upgrades to the A1 south of Newcastle and there are further plans to improve the section of the A1 around Newcastle itself. In Scotland the A1 has now also been dualled between Edinburgh and Dunbar.

The route suffers from a number of problems; there is a mix of single and dual carriageway with a poor layout at some junctions. Slow moving traffic, including agricultural vehicles, combined with a lack of overtaking opportunities causes frustration for motorists.

This results in:

- delays for road users
- safety concerns caused by the mix of single and dual carriageway and the high number of junctions

What we plan to do

We recognise that this route needs substantial improvement to meet the needs of local communities and to play a bigger role in the

national transport network. In order to make this happen, we are committing to developing an investment package comprising:

- an upgrade to provide 13 miles of dual carriageway between Morpeth and Ellingham, resulting in continuous dual carriageway from London to Ellingham
- measures to improve the A1 north of Ellingham to the Scottish border, including:
 - three stretches of climbing lanes totalling 2.5 miles
 - five junctions enhanced with right-turning refuges
 - better crossings for pedestrians and cyclists

This will triple the length of continuous Expressway standard dual carriageway north of Newcastle. Expressways provide high quality journeys for motorists with safety standards matching the highest on the network and mile a minute speeds throughout the day, particularly outside of urban areas.

